

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ECE, CSCE, PFOR, US, EEC, SENV, ETRN, ENRG
SUBJ: ECE - SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES
ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

REF: MOSCOW 3674

FINAL TEXT OF EC LETTER TO STANOVNIK ON SOVIET PROPOSAL
FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

MR. J. STANOVNIK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
PALAIS DES NATIONS
GENEVA

1. IN DECISION B (XXXI), ADOPTED ON 9 APRIL 1976 DURING
ITS PLENARY SESSION, THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
SUGGESTED THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS STUDY THOROUGHLY THE
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PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR THE
"HOLDING OF ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON QUESTIONS OF
CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF THE PROTECTION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY".
THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS CARRIED OUT SUCH
A STUDY. IN THE CONCLUDING STAGES OF OUR WORK, WE HAVE
HAD THE BENEFIT OF SEEING THE TWO IMPORTANT REPORTS WHICH

YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR THE 32ND PLENARY SESSION, VIZ E/ECE/911 ON THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT, AND E/ECE/917 ON THE WORK ALREADY EFFECTED OR UNDER WAY IN THE ECE IN THE FIELDS COVERED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL.

2. I NOW HAVE THE HONOUR TO FORWARD TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY A SUMMARY OF THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS LETTER AND ITS ENCLOSURE COULD BE CIRCULATED TO OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF DECISION B (XXXI).

JAMES BOTTOMLEY
AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

1. AT THE 31ST PLENARY SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, THE SOVIET DELEGATION SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL FOR THE HOLDING OF ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON QUESTIONS OF CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY. THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIDER CO-OPERATION WAS DESCRIBED IN THESE FIELDS AS PARTICULARLY PRESSING.

2. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AGREES THAT THE FIELDS COVERED BY THE PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ARE IMPORTANT AND THAT THE PROBLEMS RAISED CANNOT BE COVERED SOLELY BY MEASURES TAKEN WITHIN A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK. THEIR SOLUTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRES UNILATERAL, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ACTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THESE MATTERS, AMONG OTHERS, WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE AND THAT THEY FIGURE IN THE FINAL ACT ITSELF. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ATTACHES A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE PURSUIT OF CO-OPERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINAL ACT. AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG, COMMENTING ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON THE SOVIET PROPOSALS, STATED AT THE 31ST SESSION, "WE HAVE NOTED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST THIS INITIATIVE WHICH MANIFESTS THE WILL OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE ACTIVELY THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI, NOTABLY ON A MULTILATERAL LEVEL AND IN PARTICULAR IN THREE SECTORS - ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY - IN WHICH THE FINAL ACT RECOGNISED THAT THE ECE IS PARTICULARLY QUALIFIED."

3. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY REMAINS OF THE VIEW THAT THE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE IN THESE

MATTERS IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. IN THE WORDS USED BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE IN PUTTING FORWARD HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL, THE THREE FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION "FALL UNDER THE TERMS OF REFERENCE" OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE. THE FINAL ACT ITSELF IS UNAMBIGUOUS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION. IT EXPRESSES THE WISH OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES TO "TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, IN PARTICULAR BY THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, FOR GIVING EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE". IT PROVIDES FOR UNILATERAL AND BILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FOR MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION "BY MEETINGS OF EXPERTS OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES, AND ALSO IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE". AS STATED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AT LAST YEAR'S PLENARY SESSION AND QUOTED IN HIS REPORT

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E/ECE/911, "A FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE AND ITS METICULOUS INTEGRATION WITHIN THE EXISTING ECE STRUCTURE AND WORK PROGRAMMES ARE TODAY A FOREMOST TASK AND A BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN EAST/WEST CO-OPERATION".

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4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS CARRIED OUT A STUDY OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE TOPICS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR DISCUSSION AT THE PROPOSED CONGRESSES ARE ALREADY COVERED BY THE EXISTING WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE. THE STUDY HAS BEEN HANDICAPPED BY LACK OF DETAILED GUIDANCE AS TO THE PRECISE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON THE TOPICS WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. NONETHELESS, ON THE BASIS OF THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION, CERTAIN BROAD CONCLUSIONS CAN BE REACHED. IN THE CASE OF ENVIRONMENT, ALL THE FIELDS PROPOSED ALREADY FORM PART OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ECE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MARINE POLLUTION, ALTHOUGH LAND-BASED MARINE POLLUTION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. AS REGARDS ENERGY, MANY OF THE PROBLEMS REFERRED TO BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ARE ALREADY UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE RELEVANT PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, NOTABLY THOSE ON COAL, GAS AND ELECTRIC POWER. PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT, ALL ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ARE COVERED BY THE WORK PROGRAMMES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE EXCEPT FOR INTERNATIONAL OCEAN SHIPPING. THE LATTER SUBJECT, LIKE MARINE POLLUTION, WOULD SEEM TO HAVE GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD

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HARDLY BE DEALT WITH ADEQUATELY IN A REGIONAL FORUM SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

5. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS STATED IN ITS LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF 29 DECEMBER 1976 THAT "IN DULY ASSESSING THE USEFULNESS OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE THREE ABOVE-MENTIONED FIELDS BY EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, CHIEFLY THE ECE, ONE CANNOT FAIL TO RECOGNISE THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE FAR FROM MEASURING UP TO THE TASK OF INTENSIFYING AND BROADENING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AT A QUALITATIVELY NEW LEVEL". THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, FOR ITS PART, REMAINS, IN THE WORDS OF RESOLUTION 1 (XXXI), "CONVINCED OF THE VALUE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AS AN IMPORTANT FORUM FOR BROAD CO-OPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE ECE REGION". THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY INTENDS, AS IT IS CALLED UPON TO DO IN THE SAME RESOLUTION, "TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE POTENTIAL OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPING MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATION" AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IS CONFIDENT THAT THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE IS CAPABLE OF MEASURING UP TO THE CHALLENGES WHICH IT FACES. IN ASSISTING THE COMMISSION TO FULFIL ITS POTENTIAL, THE COMMUNITY WILL BE FULFILLING THE MANDATE OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI.

6. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BELIEVES THAT THE FUNCTION

OF MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINAL ACT IN
FIELDS SUCH AS THOSE COVERED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS
IS TO ACHIEVE DETAILED PRACTICAL RESULTS. IN THE VIEW OF THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS IS IN GENERAL
LIKELY TO BE MOST RAPIDLY ACHIEVED AND MOST SOLIDLY BASED WHEN IT
IS DERIVED FROM ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE WHICH THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE HAS BEEN ORGANIZING THROUGHOUT ITS EXISTENCE
AND NOTABLY FROM CONTACTS AND CO-OPERATION AMONG EXPERTS. THIS IS
RECOGNISED IN THE WORDING OF THE FINAL ACT. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE
CASES WHERE SUCH CO-OPERATION COULD BE ENHANCED BY A MEETING
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ECE AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN CUSTOMARY.
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IN HIS REPORT E/ECE/911, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EXPRESSES THE
VIEW THAT "HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS ARE NOT AN END IN THEMSELVES";
THAT THEY WOULD REQUIRE "A PRECISE AND CAREFULLY PREPARED AGENDA",
AND THAT "THEY WOULD HAVE MEANING AND PURPOSE ONLY IF THE SUBJECT-
MATTER REQUIRED SUCH A LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AND IF THEY HALD
PROMISE OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS". THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
SHARES THESE VIEWS.

7. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS NOT YET COMPLETED
ITS STUDY OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT. HOWEVER, IT
IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT ANY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE KIND MENTIONED
IN THAT REPORT COULD ONLY BE A MEETING HELD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND UNDER ITS AUTHORITY
AND THAT THE NORMAL VENUE FOR SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE GENEVA.
SUCH A UN CONFERENCE, DEVELOPING THE WORK OF THE ECE AND DESIGNED
TO GIVE ADDITIONAL IMPETUS TO THAT WORK, COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS
CONSTITUTING, OR AS BEING INTENDED TO CREATE, A SPECIAL OR
INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL FORUM.

8. THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY LOOK
FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THESE IMPORTANT
MATTERS DURING THE 32ND PLENARY SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE. END QUOTE.SORENSEN

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